

Further consolidation of broadcast ownership is a very bad idea. The media consolidation that has already taken effect in the past few years has already had an incredibly detrimental effect on the range of viewpoints and cultural diversity available in my own area (Kansas City, Missouri). There is already only one viable newspaper. Of the four local commercial TV stations, two are owned by the same company and the others are owned by large national conglomerates who own dozens of other stations. The majority of radio stations are owned by a single company (Clear Channel).1

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The results are very noticeable in the lack of diversity of views and the cultural homogeneity.1

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The contrast between the viewpoints available on these mass media outlets, controlled by a few large corporations, and the incredible diversity of outlooks, viewpoints, and artistic visions available on the internet (which, up to now, is still open to a variety of uncensored viewpoints, and is not dominated by an oligarchy of large corporations) is nothing short of astonishing.1

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We need MORE independent outlets for local news and information, not LESS. We already have far too few.1

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We need to DECREASE the number of media outlets each corporation can own, not INCREASE it.1

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Today there are many more TV stations available via cable and satellite, than there were just a few years ago. But NONE of these stations are interested in competing in the arena of local news and information. In the local arena, we have LESS competition now than we did a few years ago, not more. We have a SMALLER variety of viewpoints on local issues, not a larger variety.1

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The consolidation of radio stations across the country has already had a very notice dampening effect on the ability of independent musical artists, like myself, to get heard on local radio stations.1

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Further media consolidation will have similar unintended negative effects.1

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I urge in the strongest possible terms that the proposed regulations allowing cross-ownership of media in local markets be rejected.1

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